REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-16 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa et al. and El-Sharawy (U.S. Pat. No. 6,169,467). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The feature of the invention recited in Claim 2 resides in the dielectric constant of the center portion having a higher dielectric constant than the outer portion in the columnar resonator. However, Nishikawa et al. fails to disclose that the inner dielectric material has a higher dielectric constant than the outer dielectric material, as stated by the Examiner in the Office Action dated July 16, 2002. Moreover, El-Sharawy also fails to disclose the feature of the present invention in the descriptions indicated by the Examiner.

Neither Nishikawa et al. nor El-Sharawy discloses the feature of the present invention, and thus the present invention cannot be anticipated by the combination thereof. Hence, the present invention is patentable over the references.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Jan 29, 2004

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